

## Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

IGA-02 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 INT-08 PC-15 AGR-20 DRC-01

/285 W

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R 261920Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9632

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: DECLASSIFY 9-25-74.

TAGS: PFOR, MR

SUBJ: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 25. AMBASSADOR ABDALLAH WAS PRESENT.

2. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO MOUKNASS FOR HIS PARTICIPATION AND REMARKS IN SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON FOR AFRICANS SEPTEMBER 24. MOUKNASS SAID HE APPRECIATED SECRETARY'S COURTESY IN HOSTING LUNCH AND SAID SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY AFRICANS.

MINISTER THEN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH GENERAL STATE

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U.S.-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS AND, PARTICULARLY, APPRECIATION

FOR PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE DROUGHT AID. AMBASSADOR ABDALLAH REPORTED ON EXIM INTEREST AND SAID HE WAS RECEIVING INCREASING NUMBER EXPRESSIONS INTEREST FROM U.S. BUSINESSMEN.

3. IN DISCUSSING DROUGHT, MOUKNASS SAID HE HOPED MAURITANIA COULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH USAID ON PROJECTS. WHILE MAURITANIA HAD SUBMITTED LIST OF PROJECTS FOR OUAGADOUGOU MEETING, HE BELIEVED BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS BEST IN LONG RUN. HE SAID USAID REPRESENTATIVE DAKAR HAD WIDE TERRITORY AND COULD GIVE ONLY LIMITED TIME TO MAURITANIA. HE WONDERED WHETHER LIAISON COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED FOR MAURITANIA ALONE, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL. NEW SOM EXPLAINED GENERAL PHILOSOPHY AID IN AREA AND HOPE THAT NEXT CONCENTRATION IN SAHEL WOULD BE ON PROJECTS WHICH COULD RAPIDLY RESTORE ECONOMIC LIFE RATHER THAN ON LONG TERM CAPITAL PROJECTS.

4. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON SPANISH SAHARA, MOUKNASS SAID HE HAD HAD RECENT USEFUL CONTACTS WITH SPAIN AND SPAIN WAS MOVING TO TEST WILL OF INHABITANTS. HE SAID MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA IN ACCORD ON THIS ISSUE BUT OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES EXIST WITH MOROCCO.

5. MOUKNASS IN CLOSING INVITED ASSISTANT SECRETARY AGAIN TO VISIT MAURITANIA. NEWSOM SAID HE WOULD TRY. END.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION IO  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005